

## Library Council of Washington

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Holland/Terrell Library  
May 23, 2016

**Present:** Christine Peck, Vice Chair; Jane Blume, Laura Dushkes, Trish Henry, Marci Howells, Ann Lally, Liz Mills, Valerie McBeth, Lorena O'English, Elizabeth Partridge, Susan Whitford, Jeff Martin, and Maura Walsh; **Via Blackboard:** Patricia Cutright, Greg Lane

**Not attending:** Pam Nyberg Kiesner, Chair, Kyle Cox

**Guests:** Tour presented by Trevor Bond, Manuscripts Archives and Special Collections; Guests attending: Jennifer Ashby, Director, Asotin County Library; Erin Hvizdak, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Washington State University

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### Meeting

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Christine Peck called the meeting to order and Jay Starrat, Dean of Libraries at Washington State University, welcomed the council. Peck introduced the guests: Jennifer Ashby from Asotin Public Library and Samantha Becker from the University of Washington iSchool. We reviewed and corrected the meeting notes from 11/23/15; they were approved unanimously. We also reviewed and approved the agenda for the meeting.

### State Librarian Report

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Greg Lane started by stating that he was confident that this was his last meeting as Interim State Librarian. Three final candidates would be interviewed the following week in Olympia. They are very pleased with the results. A definitive announcement is expected mid-June.

He reported that they have been watching the revenue closely. It had not been coming in as high as had been hoped. In the last couple of months it had rebounded. They have maintained expenses, so they haven't had to make cuts despite lower revenues than expected. They may need to adjust budgets depending on how it performs over the next couple of months.

Peck mentioned the concerns with potential cuts in LSTA funding. Lane said they had been in contact with Senator Murray's office and the ALA legislative office. Peck asked him to share this information and he said he would.

Lane reported on the progress being made on the federal repository. The state library is hoping to share the burden and responsibility of maintaining the collections with other state institutions. The response so far has been quite good, particularly from universities.

## **Needs review of constituencies.**

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Samantha Becker introduced her team and gave a background about what they've done and their approach to working on the 5-year evaluation. They are trying to construct a frame of reference that is really a public values framework. This may show what to do next in providing services. They want to define what those services are, what the goals are, how to help achieve goals, and the value created. If pieces are missing in this framework, it can be difficult to deliver services successfully. They want the evaluation to provide information the library community can use and are looking for the most impactful way to contribute. Becker explained that it's really three projects in one. They will try to connect with larger goals. The federal government is interested in processes and implementation, as well as sustainability. The information from this evaluation will feed into the 5-year plan. Becker's team wants to know what we want to know, and to learn about our successes and failures. Here are points made by Council members

- Data management is huge. Librarians are expected to be able to manage various data sets for various types of users. Who has federal mandate to have data? What is it? How is it supported? What can we do about it? Many people are not aware of how data gets to them to use.
- There seems to be a war between story time and STEM from local (school) librarians. Some of this is budget, some is mentality, and buy in from staff can be a challenge. There aren't sufficient funds for everything. Electronic sources are consuming greater percentages of budgets, but students of all ages still prefer paper reading.
- Some areas still have access issues. These are both geographical and economic. Some users depend on phones for everything, but lack digital skills. Some counties have no libraries or don't fund adequately. More people are visiting libraries to charge their devices and use free Wi-Fi, and don't use materials.
- It would be good to be able to get out the message that libraries are a better source of information and can supply what is needed. Then we also need to listen to what people actually want and supply that as well as helping them become better information consumers. The library should be responsive to helping complete their community.
- How does the State Library fit into the picture? Are libraries aware of what is being offered? It seems that people require constant reminding about what is available. Sometimes library staff don't seem to be aware of or want to participate in continuing professional development. Some libraries require it as part of ongoing evaluation or even for salary increases. Should a minimum competence level be established? When only some staff are competent, it is an unfair burden.

The presentation is available to review.



LSTA needs  
assessment, evaluation

## Library Tour

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Trevor Bond gave a tour of the WSU Library archives. He highlighted important collections, sharing interesting anecdotes about accessioning, materials, and collecting. We were impressed and slightly covetous of the super scanner.

Bond also explained a content management system called [Mukurtu](#) managed by the Center for Digital Scholarship and Curation at Washington State University and funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This is a safe place for indigenous cultures to keep and share materials. They can co-curate and add protocols for their special collections. They are now working with a Mellon grant to bring this software to a national level.

## Training and CE: Conducting library needs assessments: Methods and tips

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Council is trying to determine what will be important for libraries in the future. One important thing is our ability to track and capture what we're doing now, mix metrics with our stories, and promote the ways we are providing access. The life cycle of a library user is changing rapidly and it's a challenge to have the correct tools in place. How do we anticipate different future needs like physical, digital, technological, collections, etc.? How do we keep libraries and librarians current in their ability to respond to community needs? The key to success could very well be engagement.

## Coming Attractions

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We are searching for three new Council members to represent the following constituencies:

- Public libraries that serve under 100,000.
- Two-year academic libraries.
- Special libraries (non-corporate).

We are actively searching and the application period is open. Please help promote this unique opportunity. More information and applications are available online at [sos.wa.gov \(TBD\)](#)

Our next Library Council meeting is scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup>. The following locations have been proposed as possible sites

- Mead School District
- King County Administrative Center
- Kingston library
- Skagit